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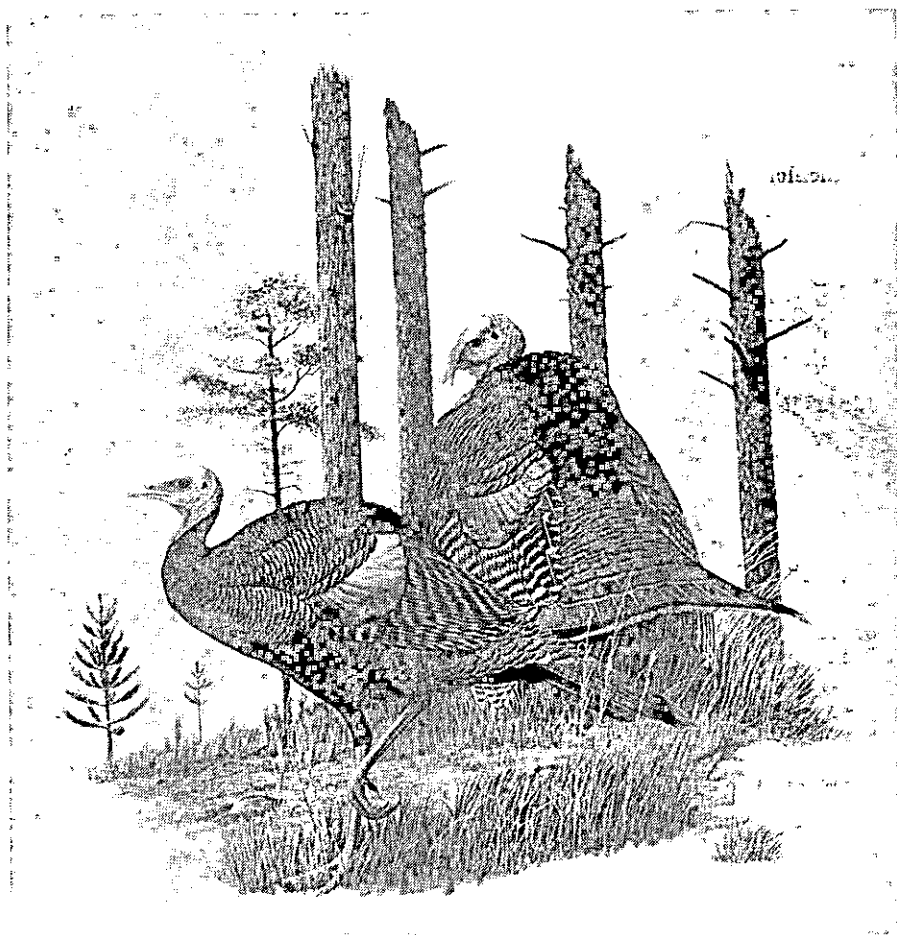
The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm, our staff artist, for this excellent painting of Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*).

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1990

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

The weather in August and September was generally quite warm and temperatures averaged slightly above normal, while precipitation, especially in September, was below normal. October and November were warm months all across the state. It was the warmest November 27th ever in Louisville, five degrees above the previous high set in 1927, according to the National Weather Service. High temperature records were not only broken in Louisville, but in Paducah — 78, breaking a 25-year old record by three degrees; and Lexington — 76, breaking a 69-year old record by four degrees.

Warm weather and more birders in the field produced a number of late departure dates. Waterfowl migration was delayed somewhat. The great flocks of ducks and geese did not arrive in western Kentucky until after December 1, according to Charles Wilkins, director of BWMA in Ballard County. Some species of sparrows were also late in arriving from the north.

Some of the rarer species encountered this fall included the Red-throated Loon, the ninth state record, White Ibis, American Avocets, Lesser Black-backed Gull and the Peregrine Falcon.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; Duck Island WMA = Duck Island Wildlife Management Area on Lake Barkley, Trigg County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; LP = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons appeared in five counties: Jefferson, Hopkins, Taylor, Clinton and Cumberland with the greatest number in the latter two counties. Quite unexpected was the sighting of a *Red-throated Loon* at Towhead Island, Jefferson County on November 24-29 (JB, PB, et al.). Pied-billed Grebes were first noted on Lake Pewee, Hopkins County, with six birds on September 15 (JH), the number increasing to 25 on October 28 (BPP, LR, DC) and 24 on November 20 (JH); one to two birds at normal locations. Horned Grebes were scarce with only one to five being reported. Double-crested Cormorants were first observed at Shippingport Island (2 birds) perched in trees (LR); birds widely distributed (m.ob.) with the greatest number 170 at LBL Barkley Lake by (CP).

Hérons through Ibises — Although many Great Blue Herons were observed at Fish Pond, five miles west of Hickman, Fulton County on August 3 (BM, MM), they were widely scattered and few in number until late in September (CP) when they became more numerous, e.g., 24 were present at Lake Pewee, Hopkins County on October 12 and November 10 (JH) and 10 at LBL on October 6 (JB, PB). One to two Great Egrets were present in seven counties: Boone, Carroll, Hopkins, Jefferson, Marshall, Ohio and Pulaski (m. ob.); but many at Fish Pond (BM, MM) and 140+ at Lake #9, Fulton County on August 3 and September 29, respectively, with one lingering in the vicinity of Cool Springs Lake on the Peabody Ken Mine, Ohio County on October 28 (BPP) and one at Jonathan Creek, Marshall County on October 20 (MMi, CP). Few Snowy Egrets were reported: two at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM), four at Lake

#9 still present on September 29 (BPB) and one at Jonathan Creek unusually late on October 20 (MMi, CP). The latter two dates established late state dates for the species. Many Little Blue Herons, both adults and immatures, were noted at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM) while single immatures were seen at SWMA, Henderson County on August 5 (LR) and at Lick Creek, Boone County on August 7 (LMc); two immatures were still along the Mississippi River in western Fulton County on September 29 (BPB, DP). The largest group of Cattle Egrets reported totaled 67 at Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County on August 28 (CP) and noteworthy was the record of 20-30 feeding with cattle several miles west of Danville, Boyle County before mid-September (*vide* FL); three birds were observed at the Falls of the Ohio on August 29 (LR). Only small numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported with six birds as the high number at McAlpine Dam, Louisville, Jefferson County on September 25 (LR) and last observed there on October 12. Two Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were present at SWMA on August 5 (LR) and an adult and an immature at the Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (LR). A single immature *White Ibis* was present at Larue County Sportsman Club Lake on September 12 (JEl) and a photo was made on September 14 (DP). A bird alert went out and others got to see the bird.

Waterfowl — Waterfowl migration was later than usual. At BWMA Canada Geese only totaled 75-100 by September 19, but by the end of November only 5,000 had arrived (CW); of this number 60% were adults and 40% juveniles. On October 13 a family of Greater White-fronted Geese (2 ad. and 2 imm.) was seen at SWMA (BBC). Only small numbers of Snow Geese were reported: four adult birds at SWMA on September 22 (BPB, LR); two adults on Cool Springs Lake, Ohio County on October 23 (BPB, L. McNeil); and one at LBL — Hematite Lake (*vide* Rick Hoken). Ducks returned later than normal and numbers were low. The duck population at BWMA at the end of November was 800 to 1,000, but by December 12 some 8,000 to 10,000 had arrived, according to Charles Wilkins. The majority of ducks were Mallards and Blacks. No diving ducks had returned to the Danville area by November 23 (FL). The largest number of Wood Ducks reported was 100 at LBL on October 16 (JB, PB). Green-winged Teal were reported from six locations with high counts of about 75 at SWMA on October 13 (BBC), 69 at Jonathan Creek on November 7 (CP) and 15 at Thurston's Pond, Wayne County near Monticello (JEl). The peak count of American Black Ducks was 50 at LBL on November 30 (CP) and 25 at Thurston's Pond on November 28 (JEl). A flock of 137 Mallards had reached the Falls of the Ohio by August 22 (LR); and although not widely reported, some 50+ were present at Beargrass Creek, Seneca Park, Louisville on October 14 (S, FS), a similar number at Thurston's Pond on November 28 (JEl), but 200 at LBL — Honker Lake on November 23 (CP). Both Northern Pintails and Northern Shovelers were in low numbers while Blue-winged Teal were in slightly better figures with a high count of 200+ at SWMA on October 13 (BBC trip); and about 30 at Jonathan Creek on September 14 (CP) and 29 (BPB). Gadwall first appeared at Duck Island WMA, Trigg County on September 30 with 35 birds (BPB, DP, KCa, JCa); a few at Lake Pewee on October 13 (JH), numbers increased and more than 200 were seen in the vicinity of Fort Heiman, Calloway County and 60 at Honker Lake — LBL on October 24 (CP). American Wigeon were reported in low numbers except at Honker Lake — LBL where a peak of 400 was noted on October 31 (CP). Canvasbacks were scarce and only reported from two locations: 34 birds at Lake Pewee (highest count there) on November 10 (JH) and only a few on the Ohio River at Louisville by

late November (BPB). Ring-necked Ducks staged a good showing particularly at Lake Pewee with high counts of 380 and 439 on November 16 and 26, respectively (JH); 80 was the count on the BBC field trip in Louisville along the Ohio River on November 10 (JP). A female Greater Scaup was noted at LP on October 28 (BPB, LR). No large flocks of Lesser Scaup were noted. Two females or immature Black Scoters, rare fall transients here, were seen at LP on October 28 (BPB, LR), and an adult male at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, on October 23 (Lewis Kornman, Fred Busroe, Dan Brewer, Mike Hearn *et al.*). The male scoter was photographed by Lewis Kornman. A single immature Surf Scoter was also noted at Lake Nevin, Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on November 10 (BM). Buffleheads were common in pairs at various sites in western Kentucky on October 24 and were early by four days, providing an early state date (CP). At Lake Barkley \pm 75 Hooded Mergansers were observed on November 7 (CP); some 40 birds at Thurston's Pond on November 28 (JEL) and 10-12 at LP on November 11 (BPB *et al.*), and "small numbers" were present at Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County from October 30-November 20 (LMc). The only Red-breasted Merganser reported was one at the Mayfair Basin, Louisville on November 10 (JP, BBC).

Hawks — No great hawk flights were observed. A flock of 38 Black Vultures was observed at the Kentucky Utilities Power Plant, Carroll County on November 24 (KCa, JCa). A large flock of 100 vultures was also noted at the above site on October 28 with over 70 being Turkey Vultures and the rest Blacks (LMc, KCa, JCa, TS); 26 Blacks at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, October 10 (JEL) and smaller numbers elsewhere. Turkey Vultures were evidently migrating on November 21 when 95+ were seen over BPS, Grayson County (KC). A flock of 21 birds was perched on a tower adjacent to Long Run County Park, Jefferson County on November 2 (S, FS). Two migrant Ospreys were seen flying below McAlpine Dam on August 24 and last observed there on October 12 (LR); singles also noted at Fishing Creek Recreational Area (JEL), Rabbit Hash, along the Ohio River, Boone County (LMc), Lake Pewee (JH), LBL (JB, PB), and Green River Lake State Park, Taylor County (JEL). The latest Osprey remained through November 16 at LP (JH). A full adult Bald Eagle was seen attending a begging immature at BWMA on August 31 and an additional immature bird several miles away (BM, MM). Another immature was seen at LP on October 28 (BPB, LR); five (3 ad., 2 imm.) in the vicinity of Dale Hollow Lake, Cumberland County (RS, FSt); and an adult at Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County on November 28 (JEL). A migrant flock of 19 Mississippi Kites in groups of 3-8, all adults, was noted at BWMA on August 3 and one flock of 10 adults at Wickliffe, Ballard County also observed on the same date (BM, MM). Single female Northern Harriers were seen in Ohio (BM, MM) and Breckinridge (KC) counties on August 3 and 25, respectively, while the majority of the birds arrived in September and October, with the greatest number — 35 — in Ohio County on November 17 (KC, BBC). The species appeared in five counties: Breckinridge (KC), Hart (KC), Jefferson (PB), Muhlenberg (BPB, LR, DC), and Ohio (BE, TE, KC). No Broad-winged Hawk flights were reported. Two Rough-legged Hawks showed up in Ohio County on October 14, but 10 noted there on November 17 (KC, BBC) and 10 in Clark County on November 24 (BA). Three Peregrine Falcons were seen in western Kentucky September 29-30 during the Kentucky Ornithological Society weekend (KOS); one at the Falls of the Ohio on October 5 (LR), an immature there on November 19 (DP) and an adult observed occasionally in November (BPB).

Rails through Shorebirds — A fresh road killed Virginia Rail was found on the median between Timberwood Shopping Center and Jefferson Mall, Jefferson County on October 23 (DP). Single Soras were reported only from SWMA and at Duck Island WMA (BPB *et al.*). American Coots began arriving by October 24 with more than 500 in the vicinity of Bailey Hollow, Patterson Landing, Kentucky Lake, Calloway County (CP) and 354 at Lake Pewee (JH). The largest concentration was at LP with a count of 1,185 on November 10 (JH). Early Sandhill Cranes included 125 over Valley Station, Jefferson County on September 29 (RH). Flights occurred chiefly November 13-18, with approximately 1,000 over Hart County on November 13-14 (SK) and the same number in Hardin County on November 17 (MB, ST).

The shorebird migration varied from place to place depending on habitat; most species were present, but numbers were quite low. The Black-bellied Plover was found at only three locations: one, a juvenile, at the Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (BPB, LR), four juveniles at Duck Island WMA, September 30 (BPB, *et al.*) and one at Jonathan Creek on November 2 (CP). Only one Lesser Golden Plover was reported and that was at the Falls of the Ohio on September 18 (BPB, LR). Semipalmated Plovers were scarce even in western Kentucky: five near SWMA on August 5 (LR); only one at Jonathan Creek August 28 (CP); five at Lake #9 August 28 (BM, MM); and four + on a sandbar on the Mississippi River, Hickman County, September 11 (BPB, R. Cicerello). The only congregation of Killdeer occurred at Falls of Rough, Grayson County, with 60+ on August 29 (KC) and 57 along River Road Country Club golf course, Louisville (JB, PB). Interesting were the three American Avocets below McAlpine Dam, Louisville on August 16 (LR), two in the same pool as above on August 29 (LR), also reported by Cap Middleton. Greater Yellowlegs were scarce with only one to five birds at six locations (m. ob.). Lesser Yellowlegs fared slightly better with 30+ birds at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM), 20 at SWMA on October 13 (BBC), 15 at Jonathan Creek (CP) on October 31, and one to four birds at four other locations (BM, JH, JEL, BPB). Sanderlings were present at a few places but in low numbers, while Semipalmated Sandpipers totaled 55 birds on August 5 near SWMA (LR), 10+ birds at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM) and seven at Honker Bay — LBL (CP). Western Sandpipers were recorded at four locations, with the highest number — 20+ — at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM), one to four birds elsewhere, and one as late as November 30 at Lake Barkley north of US 68 — LBL (CP). Some 50+ Least Sandpipers were counted at Fish Pond on August 3 (BM, MM), four at Paradise Steam Plant, Muhlenberg County on August 12 (BM, MM) and three there on November 11 (BPB). Also, about 10 birds were present at Honker Lake — LBL on November 30 (CP) and small numbers irregularly at Jonathan Creek (CP). A single White-rumped Sandpiper was present at the Paradise TVA Plant, Muhlenberg County on October 24 and 28 (BPB with R. Cicerello, L. McNeil on the former date and with LR on latter). Greatest number of Baird's Sandpipers was nine at a lake near Hodgenville, Larue County on September 15 (JB, PB). Other sightings included two in flooded field 0.25 mile from SWMA (LR), three at Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (RH), one at Paradise Steam Plant on August 26 (BM, MM). The Pectoral Sandpiper, usually a common transient, was present in very low numbers, with 15 birds as the highest number observed at SWMA on September 22 (BPB, LR). Dunlins were fairly widespread (9 locations), with only one to four birds with the exception of Honker Lake — LBL with 28 birds on October 31 and 40+ at Jonathan Creek on November 14 (CP). One to two Stilt Sandpipers were noted at Paradise Steam Plant (BM), Jonathan Creek

(CP), Falls of the Ohio (RH), but eight at SWMA (BPB, LR); one bird lingered on a surface mine pond in Hopkins County through October 28 (BPB, LR). Five Buff-breasted Sandpipers appeared at Jonathan Creek on September 3 (CP, Hap Chambers), at least four at Falls of the Ohio on September 8 (BPB) and one as late as September 30 on a gravel bar on Lake Barkley near Kuttawa, Lyon County (BPB, KCa, JCa). This latter record established a late state date. Short-billed Dowitchers were barely mentioned and were few in numbers, while Common Snipe increased in numbers from six birds at LP on September 29 to 28 on November 10 (JH) to 62 the following day (BPB, LR, DC). Other records included four birds at Lick Creek, Boone County (LMc), seven at Thurston's Pond (JEl), three to five at BWMA (BPB, LR) and three at Jonathan Creek (CP).

Gulls through Terns — Again, a Laughing Gull (first-year bird) was noted on Lake Barkley near Eddyville, Lyon County on September 30 — photo by K. Caminiti (BPB, KCa, JCa). A Franklin's Gull (sub-adult) was seen above Barkley Dam, Lyon County on September 28 (BPB, KOS); three on Lake Barkley, Boyd's Landing, Lyon County on September 30 (BPB, DP, JCa, KCa); and one immature was seen at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County on October 10 (JEl). Few Bonaparte's Gulls had returned to Kentucky by the end of the period, with a single bird present at LBL on November 7 (CP) and another at Lake Pewee on November 11 (BPB, LR, DC). Modest numbers of Ring-billed Gulls were present in the vicinity of Lake Barkley on September 11-30, with 14-15 at LP and on the Ohio River at Louisville. An adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen on Lake Barkley above the dam, Lyon County on September 11 (BPB, R. Cicerello). Another, or perhaps the same bird was noted on a mud flat on Lake Barkley near Eddyville on September 30 (BPB, KCa, JCa — photo by K. Caminiti).

Caspian Terns returned to only four locations and in small numbers. Two birds at the Falls of the Ohio on August 8 were the earliest (LR) and peaked at 11 on August 22 (LR); all other sightings were of two or three birds. Common and Forster's Terns were few with 13 Forster's at Jonathan Creek as the highest number (CP). A total of 25+ Least Terns was counted at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM); no others reported. An immature Black Tern was seen at Lake #9 on August 3 (BM, MM) and two at the Falls of the Ohio on September 5 (RH).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers — Only two reports of the Black-billed Cuckoo: one at Madisonville on September 19 (JH) and one south of McHenry, Ohio County on October 1 (BE, TE). Single Yellow-billed Cuckoos were relatively late: one at Fishing Creek Recreational Area on October 1 and one at Thurston's Pond on October 24 (JEl). A single Common Barn Owl was present at Walton, Boone County on August 4 (KCa, JCa). Four Short-eared Owls were encountered near Hwy 369, Ohio County on November 10 (KC, AW). Common Nighthawks began migrating on August 23 when 50-60 were seen in Jefferson County over Hwy 841 (DS); and a flock of 185+ over the Shelby campus, University of Louisville, Jefferson County on August 29 (JA); one bird still present as late as November 1, over the above campus (JA). A Chuck-will's-widow was late at Hanson, Hopkins County on August 31 where it was last heard calling (Bonnie West *vide* JH). The largest flocks of Chimney Swifts totaled 300+ and were seen over a chimney in Somerset, Pulaski County and over Somerset Reservoir on August 22 and September 17, respectively (JEl); some 50+ were still present at the latter location on October 3 (JEl). At BPS 15 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds had gathered by August 19, numbers dropped

in mid-September, four were left on October 1, and one lingered until October 19 but was gone the following day (KC). Another bird lingered at a feeder at Science Hill, Pulaski County until October 14 (JEL).

Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were scarce, but "good numbers" arrived in Hart County in late September (SK).

Flycatchers through Wrens — An Eastern Wood-Pewee was late at BPS on October 19 (KC). It was interesting to see an Olive-sided Flycatcher at Pennyroyal State Park, Christian County on the early date of August 12 (BM, MM). An unusually late Eastern Kingbird was carefully checked in a Science Hill yard on November 13 (Diane Elmore *vide* JEL). There were no large flocks of Tree Swallows. The group of about 100 birds over the lake at Cool Springs, Ohio County, November 3 was the largest concentration (RH); an estimated 40 at LP on October 12 (JH), where two lingered as late as November 11 (BPB, LR, DC). A Barn Swallow was also late at LP on November 11 (BPB *et al.*). The Red-breasted Nuthatch first appeared at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County on September 22 (JB, PB). Other sightings included one or two birds at Louisville, Valley Station, BPS, and in rural Jackson County north of McKee and in eastern Muhlenberg County from October 2-November 28 (m. ob.). Single Winter Wrens were found at Munfordville, Hart County and in the Glasgow area, Barren County on October 14 (SK, RS, respectively). A single Sedge Wren was seen near a marsh in Ohio County on October 1 (KC) and several flushed at SWMA on October 13 (BBC, BPB). A few Marsh Wrens were encountered at Joe Creason Park, Louisville (JB, PB) and a couple flushed from a weedy patch at Duck Island WMA at Lake Barkley, Trigg County (BPB, DP, JCa, KCa). Also, several flushed at SWMA on October 13 (BBC).

Kinglets through Waxwings — Three Golden-crowned Kinglets returned to BPS relatively early on September 18 (KC); good movement during the third week, in November at Hanson, where a flock of 16 was noted (B. West *vide* JH). A flock of 75 Eastern Bluebirds passed over BPS on October 19 (KC, BBC). The Swainson's Thrush was present from September 14-October 12 in low numbers, but common at Munfordville (SK). A Gray Catbird lingered at BPS until October 19 (KC). Cedar Waxwings peaked at 75+ at BPS on November 9 (KC).

Vireos through Warblers — Vireo flights were fairly good on September 10 and 29. A Bell's Vireo was heard along a road leading to Hardy Slough, SWMA, August 5 (LR). Philadelphia Vireos were present in numbers from one to three at Joe Creason Park, September 16-17, Bernheim Forest on September 22 and at LBL on October 6 (JB, PB), while one in the Danville area, Boyle County provided a late state date on October 17 (FL) and another on the same date at the Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville (JB, PB). There was some difference of opinion on the warbler migration. One observer felt there was a good movement with "hundreds" of warblers passing through, while another thought the migration uneventful. Single Golden-winged Warblers were seen at Joe Creason Park on September 16, 17 and 22 (JB, PB) and one each in September and October at Munfordville (SK). The Tennessee, as usual, was the most common, but this year especially at Munfordville, where "hundreds" were noted on a farm (SK). A few Orange-crowned Warblers were seen during September, with one as early as September 8 and is Kentucky's earliest record (JB, PB). The Magnolia Warbler was numerous at Joe Creason Park (JB). The Yellow-rumped Warbler was late in arriving, and no large

flights were noted. Three Pine Warblers were recorded in Ohio County, south of McHenry on October 1 (BE, TE); and a male at Surrey Hills Farm, Louisville on November 18 was a rather late migrant (BPB). A fair movement of Bay-breasted Warblers was noted at Beargrass Nature Preserve on September 29 (JB, PB). A single Blackpoll Warbler was picked up at a TV tower kill in Henderson on September 22 (bird probably killed previous night — BPB, LR) and another picked up near Westport, Oldham County on September 23 (bird probably killed within the week — BPB). American Redstarts were observed at Joe Creason Park August 31-September 30 with 12 as the greatest number on September 15 (JB, PB). A Swainson's Warbler was found dead under WGRB TV tower on October 17, apparently part of a major tower kill October 11-12 (JEL). Even though the bird was killed on October 11 or 12, it would still be a late state record. The location of the tower is at Columbia, Adair County. A total of 376 dead Ovenbirds was picked up beneath the tower mentioned above on October 17 (JEL). A Connecticut Warbler was discovered in a Danville yard on September 27 (FL) and one dead bird picked up at the TV tower near Westport, October 20 (BPB, D. Ebel). A Mourning Warbler was seen at Joe Creason Park on September 8 (JB, PB). A male Hooded Warbler at Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, Hardin County on October 13 was relatively late in departing (RH).

Grosbeaks through Finches — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks appeared to be less common this fall in the Madisonville area (JH), while at Munfordville "hundreds" were seen from mid-September to mid-October (SK). An unusually late Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen on November 26-28 at Bowling Green, near Drake's Creek, southeast Warren County. The male bird was in winter plumage and documented on video tape (BF). A Blue Grosbeak was still singing in the vicinity of Brazzle Bridge, Hopkins County on August 8 (JH). The species was common on the PHSM on August 3 and 12 where at least three family groups, plus additional singing males, were present each day (BM, MM). A freshly killed Dickcissel was picked up at a TV tower in Henderson on September 22 (BPB, LR); and one still lingered near Petersburg, Boone County on October 6 (LMc). Grasshopper Sparrows were common on the PHSM on August 12, some still singing (BM, MM). A Henslow's Sparrow was noted in Butler County on August 26 where records, if any, are few (BM, MM). A freshly killed specimen of a *Sharp-tailed Sparrow* was found under the WAVE tower near Westport on October 20; it was probably killed a few days prior to the 20th (BPB). White-throated Sparrows were late in arriving and were in low numbers. A Dark-eyed Junco was relatively early at Anchorage on September 22 (BM). A Snow Bunting at Kentucky Utilities Power Company on November 18 was unexpected (KCa, JCa). There was only a small migration of Purple Finches; the earliest were recorded at Hanson on October 3 (B. West *vide* JH) and others trickled through during the remainder of the period. Call notes of a flock of eight to 10 birds heard very well as they passed overhead in northern Jackson County near Sand Springs on November 28 were identified as Red Crossbills (BPB). Pine Siskins were scarce and only reported from five locations in low numbers: BPS (KC), Berea (AR, TR), Louisville (BPB), Madisonville (JH) and Somerset (CH), while one bird arrived unusually early on October 1 and established an early state date (KC).

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MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1990-1991

Reports of 21 counts were received from across the state. A total of 129 species was recorded on count days, 109 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days that are not represented on the table include: one Pacific Loon and one Red-throated Loon (Land Between the Lakes), two Greater White-fronted Geese (Paradise), one Greater Scaup (Burlington), one Osprey (Marion), one Prairie Falcon (Paradise), one Peregrine Falcon (Shelbyville), one Ruffed Grouse (Perry County), 39 Least Sandpipers, 43 Dunlin and three Lesser Black-backed Gulls (Land Between the Lakes), one Common Barn-Owl (Lexington), one Long-eared Owl (Paradise), one House Wren (Louisville), one Prairie Warbler (Otter Creek), one Common Yellowthroat (Otter Creek), one Indigo Bunting (Lexington), one Vesper Sparrow (Marion), three Lark Sparrows (Calloway County) and one Lapland Longspur (Paradise). Other birds of interest observed during the count period but not on count day included: one Mute Swan (possible release — Yelvington), one Peregrine Falcon (Louisville) and one Osprey (Perry County). There were 13 more species observed this year compared with last.

The temperature extremes reported for count days were 64°F in December to 12°F on January 1. The average daily temperature during the count period was 43°F which was rather mild. The mild weather might have accounted for the fact that Canada Goose, Mallard and American Black Duck numbers were much lower than last year when December temperatures plummeted to record breaking lows. The extremely cold temperatures to our north and west coupled with our mild temperatures might have accounted for the increase in Common Loon numbers and the presence of the Pacific Loon and the Red-throated Loon. Interestingly, Hooded and Common Merganser numbers also were up significantly this year compared with last. A striking increase in Bonaparte's Gull sightings was evident with 2,642 this year compared with only 3 last year. Conversely, American Robins (1,353), Cedar Waxwings (185) and Yellow-rumped Warblers (105), normally species found in greater abundance (6,212; 1,875; and 547, respectively in 1990), were clearly difficult to find this year. Pine Siskins were also relatively hard to find, only 99 this year compared with 596 last year. Red-headed Woodpeckers on the other hand were approximately six times more abundant this year than last. Whether these fluctuations in numbers can be attributed to climatic conditions, food resource conditions or a combination of these factors is difficult to say based on Mid-winter Bird Count census data for a given year. A decrease

in the abundance of cedar cones for example, as reported for several count areas, might have contributed to the decrease in Cedar Waxwing numbers. With the mild temperatures it was not too surprising that several summer residents, such as the Indigo Bunting and the Common Yellowthroat lingered in the area. It was nice to see the Common Barn-Owl show up on the count again this year and in a different location than last year.

Although observations based on Mid-winter Count bird census data are less than precise, several additional observations warrant mention. Once again, it seems as though no large blackbird and starling roosts were encountered in count areas. The number of Eastern Bluebirds (1201) was up only slightly compared with the number last year (1024). Loggerhead Shrikes held their own compared with last year also. A good diversity of sparrows was evident and the occurrence of Lark Sparrows and the Vesper Sparrow were unusual. Interestingly, the number of Purple Finches, House Finches and House Sparrows was approximately one half of the number of each of these species tallied last year. Other observations of interest have already been addressed above or can be found in the comments accompanying the description for each count. In order to be considered for state record status, documentation needs to be considered by the Kentucky Bird Record Committee for unusual sightings. This would include the following for this count: Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Prairie Falcon, Prairie Warbler, House Wren, Common Yellowthroat, Lark Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbird. Documentation forms will be sent to those compilers on whose count rare species were observed.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts.

CALLOWAY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter, circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential and 35% pastures and open fields. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Partly cloudy/sunny; temp. 14°F to 42°F; wind NW, 0-2 m.p.h.

Fourteen observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 58 (20.5 on foot, 37.5 by car). Total party-miles 386.5 (44.5 on foot, 342 by car). Total species 87; total individuals 11,484.

Large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls had been seen prior to the count day.

Observers: Phyllis Brines, Wally Brines, Hap Chambers (compiler), Russell Dawson, Joe Tom Erwin, Bob Head, Rick Hokans, Sally Leedom, Sally Mills, Mike Miller, Carl Mowery, Clell Peterson, Shari Sherwood and Tommy Sherwood.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground.) Habitat lake and stream shores 40%, deciduous and pine woods 22%, overgrown and cultivated fields 28% and residential and small business 10%. Dec. 15: 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy (a.m.), partly cloudy (p.m.); temp. 58°F to 61°F; wind SW, 10-18 m.p.h.

Twenty eight observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 63 (29 on foot, 34 by car). Total party-miles 407 (25.5 on foot, 381.5 by car). Total species 95; total individuals 16,459.

The Pacific and Red-throated Loons were sighted 1 mile above Kentucky Dam on Dec. 15 (BPB, DP) and then again on Sunday, Dec. 16

(BPB, DP, CP, CM, JTE). The Adult Golden Eagles were seen over Barkley Lake (WB, ER), the immature at Hematite Lake (BH, CM). The unseasonably warm weather accounted for the high numbers of Double-crested Cormorants, Hooded and Common Mergansers, and the low numbers of Canada Geese.

Observers: Douglas Bohanan, Wally Brines, Gerald Burnett, Happy Chambers, Jack Dodd, Lorraine Dodd, Melissa Easley, Joe Tom Erwin, Dan Frisk, Bob Head, Nita Head, Rick Hokans, Sharon Hutchison, Sally Leedom, Carl Mowery (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Don Parker, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, Michelle Putz, Wendell Ragland, Ed Ray, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood, Pat Wallace, Steve White, Carla Yambert, Paul Yambert.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat open, brush, woods, creek and river. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 22°F to 40°F; wind S, light.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (7 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 24 (4 on foot, 20 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 2,126. One Osprey was observed on the count day.

Observers: C. L. Frazer (compiler) and Jim Frazer.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279-S and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat fields, backwaters, large woods, shrubs and farmland. Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 56°F to 63°F; wind 5 m.p.h. Some snow and ice on the ground.

Nine observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 18 (12 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 38 (10 on foot, 28 by car). Total species 40; total individuals 1,962.

One hundred acres covered by backwater generally included on walks, several roads under backwater, thus territory limited.

Observers: Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, John Humphrey, Bert Powell, Millie Powell, Mandy Powell, Tommy Stevenson, Ed Wilson (compiler) and Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Kentucky Highway 405 and junction at Route 662 at Yelvington, Ky.) Habitat Ohio River Bottoms, Fish and Game Farm, roadside ditches, fields and woods. Dec. 22; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast with rain; temp. 30°F to 40°F; wind 10-15 m.p.h. Roads muddy from heavy rains on December 20. Intermittent rain on December 22.

Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 20 (6 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 37 (6 on foot, 31 by car). Total species 56; total individuals 1,286.

Due to several days of heavy rains prior to count day the Ohio River bottoms and the Blackford Creek area roads were flooded. River and creek bottoms have been the most productive areas in the past. One party did get to cover the Daviess County Fish and Game Farm. The area around Carpenter's Lake and environs was covered on foot. Two large wooded areas were covered in spite of intermittent rain. Roadside birding also yielded a number of birds. The largest number of birds was found at the feeders of Marvin and Maudie Ray, Mary Lee Thompson and the Powells. Not being able to cover much of our previous area is the reason for the small number of species and individual birds.

The Mute Swan has been on the lakes since October. It may be domestic but it is able to fly from one lake to the other. As the Mute Swan has been

found on the river and the gravel pit lakes several years ago we feel that this is a wild bird. One Evening Grosbeak was on the Powell's feeder.

Observers: Mike Brown, Neal Hayden, Jan Howard, John Humphrey, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Marvin Ray, Maudie Ray, Bob Stocking and Mary Lee Thompson.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields and creek bottom. Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 34°F to 48°F; wind E at 5 m.p.h. Extremely foggy, drizzle.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 7 (6 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 15 (5 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 17; total individuals 87.

Observers: Roseann Radzelovage (compiler) and Walt Radzelovage.

PARADISE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Hopewell Cemetery in southern Ohio County.) Habitat 30% grasslands, 20% woodlands, 20% farmland, 20% brushy edges and fields, 10% lakes and streams. Jan. 1; 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 12°F to 40°F; wind variable, 0-5 m.p.h. Water partly frozen.

Fourteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 44 (20 on foot, 24 by car). Total party-miles 258 (8 on foot, 250 by car +4 hours owling). Total species 91; total individuals 11,084.

The center of the count circle was shifted slightly to include some recently discovered areas in Muhlenberg County. However, this small change did not eliminate areas covered on previous counts. Nearly perfect weather, combined with coverage of greater diversity of habitats, yielded the highest species total (91) in the three years this count has been taken. A good variety of waterfowl (3 species of geese, 13 species of ducks) led the way to the high total, but a good showing of some of the harder-to-find landbird species also helped out. Best finds of the count included the Prairie Falcon (JB, PB), the species' first appearance in this area in nearly two years, a pair of White-fronted Geese (RH), a Lapland Longspur (BPP, LS), and four Evening Grosbeaks (DP, KP, SB). Raptor totals were slightly lower this year, in part due to less comprehensive coverage of a few crucial areas, although numbers of hawks and owls have seemed a bit lower in most areas this winter. Short-eared Owls were most prevalent in Muhlenberg County; a bird with a broken wing was picked up alive in Ohio County and kept for rehabilitation (JC, KC, LM). The Long-eared Owl was found in the same location as previous years. Robins, Cedar Waxwings, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were almost non-existent. Included in the total of 66 Red-tailed Hawks was a single melanistic individual.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Sean Burns, Joe and Kathy Caminiti, Dona Coates, Brenda and Tony Eaden, Richard Healy, Jr., Lee McNeely, Brainerd Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Donald and Katherine Parker, and Larry Sparks.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green. Habitat deciduous forests 20%, fields and pastures 70% and town and parks 10%. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 55°F to 64°F; wind S, 3-12 m.p.h. Steady drizzle in a.m.

Eight observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 13 (8 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 88 (6 on foot, 82 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 1,397.

Observers: Lloyd Curry, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell, Lisa Hicks, Philip Johnson, Bill Mathes, Ruth Mathes and H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1990-1991

| | CALLOWAY COUNTY | LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES | MARION | SORGHO | YELVINGTON | HANCOCK COUNTY | PARADISE | BOWLING GREEN | MAMMOTH CAVE NAT'L. PARK | GLASGOW | FALLS OF THE ROUGH | HART COUNTY | OTTER CREEK PARK | BERNHEIM FOREST | LOUISVILLE | SHELBYVILLE | LEXINGTON | DANVILLE | BURLINGTON | WARSAW | PERRY COUNTY |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------|----------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|
| COMMON LOON | 2 | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PIED-BILLED GREBE | 6 | 26 | | | 2 | | 3 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 2 | | | |
| HORNED GREBE | 9 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DOUBLE-CR. CORMORANT | 1 | 230 | | | | | | | | 3 | | | 1 | | 7 | | | | | | |
| GREAT BLUE HERON | 17 | 218 | * | 1 | 2 | | 19 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 24 | | 12 | .8 | 27 | 21 | * |
| BL.-CR. NIGHT-HERON | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | |
| SNOW GOOSE | * | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CANADA GOOSE | 57 | 797 | * | | | | 2100 | 9 | 36 | 13 | | | | 3 | 226 | 1 | 109 | 91 | 86 | | |
| WOOD DUCK | *2 | 2 | * | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 50 | | | | | | |
| GREEN-W. TEAL | | 109 | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| AM. BLACK DUCK | | 105 | 1 | | | | 15 | | 9 | | | | 3 | | 112 | | 3 | 12 | 23 | 10 | |
| MALLARD | 26 | 1269 | | 40 | 1 | | 548 | 24 | 377 | 208 | | | 45 | 56 | 1147 | 7 | 304 | 76 | 120 | 60 | |
| BLUE-WINGED TEAL | | 14 | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | 24 | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN PINTAIL | | | | | | | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN SHOVELER | 1 | 4 | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | 6 | | | 2 | | | |
| GADWALL | 7 | 482 | | | | | 6 | | | | | | | | 15 | | 10 | 2 | 1 | | |
| AMERICAN WIGEON | | 87 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 6 | | | | | | |
| CANVASBACK | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | | |
| REDHEAD | 15 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| RING-NECKED DUCK | 131 | 447 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 57 | | 18 | | | | |
| LESSER SCAUP | 2 | 5 | | 6 | | | 2 | 5 | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | 3 | |
| COMMON GOLDENEYE | 326 | 8 | | | | | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BUFFLEHEAD | 9 | 119 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 3 | | 3 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------|-----|----|----|----|----|-----|------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| HOODED MERGANSER | 3 | 534 | | | | | 1 | 17 | 1 | 30 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| COMMON MERGANSER | 5 | 298 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | | |
| RED-BR. MERGANSER | | 2 | | | | 4 | | | | 1 | | | |
| RUDDY DUCK | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 62 | | |
| BLACK VULTURE | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 4 | 50 | 3 | 20 |
| TURKEY VULTURE | | | | | | | | 18 | | | 150 | 2 | 60 |
| BALD EAGLE | 3 | 30 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| NORTHERN HARRIER | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 49 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | * | 1 |
| SHARP-SHINNED HAWK | 3 | * | 1 | | | | 3 | 1 | * | 1 | 4 | * | 1 |
| COOPER'S HAWK | 2 | | 1 | | | | 5 | 1 | | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| RED-SHOULDERED HAWK | 14 | 7 | | | | | 10 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 |
| RED-TAILED HAWK | 29 | 19 | 9 | 5 | 3 | | 66 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 11 | 8 |
| ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK | | | 2 | | | | 24 | 1 | | | 37 | 34 | 61 |
| GOLDEN EAGLE | 3 | | | | | | | | | * | | | 3 |
| AMERICAN KESTREL | 34 | 8 | 12 | 10 | 7 | 1 | 41 | 9 | 22 | 13 | 17 | 16 | 11 |
| WILD TURKEY | 3 | 24 | | | | | 10 | 2 | | | 52 | 58 | 108 |
| NORTHERN BOBWHITE | 68 | | 14 | 18 | 1 | 10 | 22 | | 6 | 30 | 7 | | 15 |
| AMERICAN COOT | 20 | 402 | | | | | | 1 | | | 2 | | 35 |
| SANDHILL CRANE | | | | | | | | | | | 8 | | 7 |
| KILLDEER | 9 | 161 | | | 6 | | | | *100 | * | | | *74 |
| COMMON SNIPES | 21 | | | | | | 1 | | 4 | 13 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| AMERICAN WOODCOCK | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 34 | 58 |
| BONAPARTE'S GULL | 2001 | 616 | | | | | | | | | 6 | 6 | 1 |
| RING-BILLED GULL | 530 | 4831 | | | | | 28 | 1 | 290 | 9 | | 36 | 2 |
| HERRING GULL | 15 | 159 | 3 | | | | 3 | | 12 | | | *5 | 6 |
| ROCK DOVE | 15 | 144 | 13 | 23 | 1 | | 29 | 190 | 18 | | | 7 | 3 |
| MOURNING DOVE | 214 | 26 | 150 | 65 | 11 | | 51 | 160 | 57 | 36 | 42 | 250 | 16 |
| EASTERN SCREECH OWL | 5 | 2 | 1 | | | | 6 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | * |
| GREAT HORNED OWL | 10 | 1 | 1 | | | * | 9 | | 1 | 3 | * | 12 | * |
| BARRED OWL | 5 | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | 5 | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| SHORT-EARED OWL | | | | | | | 48 | | | | | | |
| BELTED KINGFISHER | 10 | 16 | | 1 | 2 | | 15 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 13 |
| RED-H. WOODPECKER | 50 | 122 | | | | | 5 | 31 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| RED-B. WOODPECKER | 130 | 87 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 1 | 29 | 3 | 14 | 23 | 8 | 30 | 29 |
| YELLOW-B. SAPSUCKER | 8 | 4 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 4 | 3 |

[illegible]

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------------------------|
| CEDAR WAXWING | 23 | 67 | | | | 4 | 6 | | 5 | 8 | * | 46 | 13 | 9 |
| LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE | 12 | * | 4 | 2 | | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| EUROPEAN STARLING | 1500 | 293 | 500 | 460 | 300 | 1490 | 230 | 1 | 640 | 360 | 650 | 651 | 957 | 8817 2852 9431 12551 507 408 100 |
| YELLOW-R. WARBLER | 2 | | | | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 33 | 1 | 2 | 25 7 |
| PINE WARBLER | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NORTHERN CARDINAL | 495 | 286 | 200 | 73 | 175 | 10 | 315 | 36 | 10 | 136 | 40 | 60 | 209 | 73 679 137 387 207 211 114 10 |
| RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE | 135 | 110 | 12 | 1 | 55 | 10 | 29 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 29 | 4 18 2 23 3 11 7 2 |
| AM. TREE SPARROW | 12 | 2 | 4 | | | | 23 | | | | | 26 | 1 | 10 27 7 |
| FIELD SPARROW | 43 | 68 | | | 10 | 183 | 3 | 41 | 5 | 16 | 57 | 3 | 8 | 24 13 23 8 |
| SAVANNAH SPARROW | | | | | | 18 | | | | | | | | |
| FOX SPARROW | 14 | 2 | 4 | 1 | | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | * | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 1 |
| SONG SPARROW | 113 | 127 | 11 | 28 | 20 | 4 | 289 | 17 | 2 | 43 | 4 | 55 | 144 | 47 193 39 160 39 69 51 10 |
| SWAMP SPARROW | 24 | 31 | | | | | 123 | 12 | 2 | | 5 | 20 | 3 | 10 2 5 6 |
| WHITE-THR. SPARROW | 190 | 136 | 200 | 16 | 72 | | 61 | 48 | 38 | 74 | 4 | 24 | 71 | 34 144 7 167 24 39 33 20 |
| WHITE-GR. SPARROW | 22 | 250 | 21 | 26 | | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | * | 93 | 65 | 30 | 34 49 33 6 31 |
| DARK-EYED JUNCO | 826 | 1854 | 300 | 10 | 98 | 15 | 304 | 37 | 14 | 60 | 93 | 24 | 264 | 132 284 35 266 91 119 14 50 |
| RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD | 361 | 76 | * | 15 | 1 | 1200 | 28 | 58 | | | 260 | 45 | 6 | 144 181 50 1 10 6 |
| E. MEADOWLARK | 172 | 113 | 36 | 10 | 10 | 225 | 10 | 21 | 33 | 12 | 43 | 26 | 4 | 24 30 7 11 4 20 |
| RUSTY BLACKBIRD | * | 7 | | 10 | | 11 | | | | | 10 | 14 | 680 | 53 5 |
| BREWER'S BLACKBIRD | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMMON GRACKLE | 1018 | 8 | 14 | 400 | 1 | 1770 | 29 | 186 | | | 20 | 1 | 433 | 245 44 35 |
| BR.-HEADED COWBIRD | 39 | 60 | 60 | 50 | 2 | 94 | 40 | 1 | 102 | 300 | 14 | 200 | 6 | 8 103 65 3 25 |
| PURPLE FINCH | 46 | 21 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | | | | 1 | * | 12 | 10 | 2 64 * |
| HOUSE FINCH | 66 | 3 | 150 | 110 | | 6 | 136 | 20 | 60 | 30 | 10 | 114 | 12 | 118 11 308 59 54 4 |
| PINE SISKIN | 79 | 5 | | 5 | 5 | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | * 5 |
| AM. GOLDFINCH | 362 | 78 | 1 | 48 | 27 | 411 | 12 | 38 | 35 | 11 | 43 | 120 | 10 | 278 12 111 51 87 31 10 |
| EVENING GROSBEAK | | 1 | | | *1 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| HOUSE SPARROW | 190 | 124 | 100 | 97 | 60 | 55 | 56 | 78 | 10 | 25 | 228 | | 849 | 17 394 42 53 10 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-----|-------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|----------|
| DAY OF COUNT | J1 | D15 | J1 | D29 | D22 | D28 | J1 | D15 | D16 | D28 | D26 | D22 | D22 | D30 | D16 | D22 | D15 | D29 | D15 | D26 |
| NUMBER OF SPECIES | 87 | 95 | 46 | 41 | 56 | 17 | 91 | 52 | 39 | 58 | 37 | 47 | 86 | 48 | 81 | 47 | 76 | 53 | 64 | 51 35 |
| INDIVIDUALS | 11484 | 16459 | 2126 | 1963 | 1286 | 87 | 11084 | 1397 | 434 | 2842 | 1178 | 2030 | 3937 | 1822 | 17018 | 5602 | 15813 | 14561 | 2876 | 1653 461 |
| OBSERVERS | 14 | 28 | 2 | 9 | 10 | 2 | 14 | 8 | 7 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 17 | 6 | 35 | 7 | 36 | 18 | 13 | 6 2 |

*Birds observed during the count period, but not on the count day.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 16; 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; temp. 35°F to 44°F; wind N, 5 m.p.h.

Not many of the northern species were here yet, too warm — no ducks, no American Robins, no Yellow-rumped Warblers.

Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 10 (3 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 47 (5 on foot, 42 by car). Total species 39; total individuals 434.

Observers: Rick Bryson, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Lisa Hicks, David Roemer, Herb E. Shadowen, Lois Winter.

GLASGOW (center and habitat as described in 1986). Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky heavy overcast and fog early; light overcast thereafter; temp. 38°F to 47°F; wind calm, 0-5 m.p.h.

Seventeen observers in 14 parties (See Comments). Total party-hours 46 (39 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 105 (6.5 on foot, 98.5 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 2,842.

Large numbers of waterfowl were observed at Barren River Reservoir, but most of them could not be positively identified due to poor visibility at the time of their sighting. The Cormorant sightings (2 immatures and 1 adult) represent a new winter record for this species on this count. We would like to thank the Glasgow Garden Club for their participation in this count; their feeder-watch results are greatly appreciated.

Observers: Marquita Gillenwater, Frances Goodman, Anna K. Jernigan, Howard M. and Francis Jones, Ron Lewis, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Kaye Mayfield, Doris McKinley, Elaine Murphy, Ruth Patterson, N. Richardson, Ann and Bill Rogers, Elizabeth Rogers, Faye and R. Russell Starr.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the intersection of Ky. Hwy. 54 and U.S. Hwy. 79, Short Creek, Kentucky in Grayson County). Habitat cultivated fields, woodlands, Rough River Lake and roadsides. Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 13°F to 31°F; wind calm.

Two observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 8 (1.5 on foot, 6.5 by car). Total party-miles 55 (1 on foot, 54 by car). Total species 37; total individuals 1,178.

Observers: Joyce Porter (compiler) and Doralee St. Clair.

HART COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Craddock Road and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat farms, woodlots, Green River, and ponds. Dec. 22; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 25°F to 45°F; wind variable, gusty. Dark afternoon, few birds after noon.

Four observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (5 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 55 (5 on foot, 50 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 2,030.

No cedar berries anywhere in the county. Yellow-rumped Warblers and Cedar Waxwings are almost absent.

Observers: Carol Friedman, Steve Kistler (compiler), Cap Middleton, and Mitchell Sturgeon.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 22%, woodlands 30%, farmland 34%, ponds, creeks and river 14%. Dec. 22; 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 57°F to 40°F; wind SW-N, 7-12 m.p.h. Light mist falling in early morning, heavy rain 11 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mostly cloudy in p.m., occasional misting.

The four and one-half inches of rain during the week prior to the count caused Otter Creek to be very high and the ground soggy. Also the Ohio River was unusually high and the adjacent fields were flooded in many areas.

The Double-crested Cormorant found flying across Doe Valley Lake was a new record for the count; it was found by the Stamm party. Other new count records included a Prairie Warbler and a Common Yellowthroat; both species apparently lingered beyond normal departure dates. The former species was observed by B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Deborah White and the latter by Palmer-Ball. Good documentations.

The mature Bald Eagle was found by Jim Pasikowski. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, as well as Northern Flickers, all showed sharp decreases in numbers compared with numbers in 1989. American Robins were scarce, with only six recorded, in sharp contrast with last year's record of 919. Cedar berries were absent and may have been the reason for the scarcity of robins and absence of waxwings and low numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers. The flock of Water Pipits found on the ground at the edge of a flooded area below Doe Valley Lake was an interesting find.

Seventeen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 41.5 (21 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 208.5 (16.5 on foot, 192 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 3,837.

Observers: Janet Aylward, Mary B. Bauer, Lloyd Curry, Mike Eirk, Richard Healy, Frank Krull, Jr., John Krull, Celia Lawrence, Jim Moore, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Jim Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm and Deborah White.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974.) Dec. 30; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 58°F to 35°F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Light to moderate showers throughout the entire day.

Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 18 (5 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 110 (2 on foot, 108 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 1,822.

One has to expect that sooner or later every Christmas Bird Count is going to have its record worst day. Without question, this year's Bernheim CBC was the worst we've ever had, and one can only hope that we will never experience a day like it again. The only consolation of the count was that only six observers wasted their day attempting to make a success out of a miserable combination of incessant rain, gusty winds and falling temperatures. The species total (48) was six worse than the lowest previous total and the number of individuals (1,822) fell far below the count average of more than 6,000 birds. No real conclusions could be drawn from the results; unfortunately, it was too late in the count period to re-schedule. Interesting among the results was the fact that a record count for White-crowned Sparrows (65; previous high of 51) was tallied. Mac McClure, Forest Manager, reported seeing the local Golden Eagles on the day before the count. Thanks is graciously extended to those hardy observers who did take part.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Richard Cassell, Dona Coates, Tim Love, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler) and Martha Pike.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 16; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 39°F to 40°F; wind NW-SE, 12-5 m.p.h. Rained almost an inch the day previous to the count.

Thirty-five observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 89.5 (43 on foot, 46.5 by car). Total party-miles 405 (38 on foot, 367 by car). Total species 81; total individuals 17,018.

Almost an inch of rain fell the day prior to the count, leaving the ground soggy and the vegetation wet. The Ohio River and ponds were high and muddy. All participants felt that the birds were low in numbers. Seventeen species of waterfowl were present including 30 Hooded Mergansers. *Blue-winged Teal* were found at two locations and lingered beyond normal departure dates. The white "quotation" marks were obvious on some of the birds noted and the small size was also noted. A *House Wren* was still present and found with two Carolina Wrens (all field marks noted) by two competent observers.

Belted Kingfishers were up in numbers, perhaps due to the mild fall season. Carolina Wrens were in good numbers and were about 25% over 1989 figures. Winter Wrens were up too, while Horned Larks were scarcely present, with a low of 12 birds, as compared with 252 last year. Blackbirds were in low numbers and this year there are no roosts known locally.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Janet Aylward, Mary Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Marie Blahnik, Roland Blahnik, Dona Coates, Muriel Doolittle, Mike Eirk, S. A. Figg, Katy Fulkerson, Wayne Hinkle, Frank Krull, Sr., Frank Krull, John Krull, Tim Love, Colleen Mansmith, Fred Mansmith, Barbara McFarland, Jim McFarland, Dot Muntan, Doxie Noonan, J. R. Noonan, Martha Pike, Lene Rauth, Ginny Rommel, Helga Schutte, Tony Smith, Anne Stamm (compiler), F. W. Stamm, Mike Stinson, Midge Susie, Scottie Theiss, Ed Triner.

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center .75 miles south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on Ky. Highway 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farm land, fallow land, residential, wooded and grassland. Dec. 22; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast raining and foggy; temp. 40°F to 58°F; wind SW-NW, 0-5 m.p.h. Visibility was poor the entire day.

Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 10.25 (0 on foot, 10.25 by car). Total party-miles 310 (0 on foot, 310 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 5,602.

Vulture roost accounted for the large number of vultures.

Observers: Iris Brown, Leslie Brown, Todd Brown and W. H. Brown (compiler), Ron Pauley, Seth Pauley and Rebecca Reihm.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman Church and Bates Creek Road.) Habitat farmland and residential. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky dark and overcast. 56°F to 58°F; wind S, 5-10 m.p.h. Moderate to heavy rain.

Thirty six observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 160 (20 on foot, 140 by car). Total party-miles 295 (10 on foot, 285 by car). Total species 76; total individuals 15,813.

Observers: Brad Andres, Sarah Andres, Ruth Blimes, Earl Boggs, Earl E. Boggs, Gary Boggs, Mike Boggs, Ann Bradley, Eugene Bradley, Rose Canon, Manton Cornette, Ruth Davis, Phylis Deal, Lyda Feck, Michael Flynn, Maureen Furbacj, Smith Hundley, Terri Koontz, Bret Kuss, Betty Maxson, Robert O. McNeece, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Glenn Raliegh, Ed Seiler, Lewis Shain, Mary Snyder, Richard Stofer, Jr., Mrs. Richard Stofer, Jr., Marie Sutton, Dave Svetich, Andrew Uterhart, Sally Wasielewski, Jim Williams, Tim Williams, Jim Wilson and Bernice Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat water 14%, urban 2%, cultivated 14%,

field/fence 47%, wooded/edge 16% and feeder 7%. Dec. 15; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 51°F to 57°F; wind nil. Rain all day.

Eighteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 34 (3 on foot, 31 by car). Total party-miles 364 (4 on foot, 360 by car). Total species 53; total individuals 14,561.

Observers: Chauncey Alcock, Bob Corcoran, Lois Corcoran, Neil Eklund, (compiler), Scott Eklund, Virginia Eklund, JoAnn Hamm, Michael Hamm, Mort Hoagland, Tom Kearns, Bill Kemper, John Newton, John B. Nichols, Herb Petitjean, Margaret Rimstidt, Jim Roessler, Joe Russell, Joan Smith.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Camp Michaels near Union, KY.) Habitat woodland and forest edge 30%, farmland and fields 30%, streams and river 35% and residential 5%. Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 53°F to 61°F; wind S, 10-20 m.p.h. All water open.

Thirteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 36.5 (16 on foot, 20.5 by car). Total party-miles 251 (6 on foot, 245 by car). Total species 64; total individuals 2,876.

The Greater Scaup, Bonaparte's Gull and Black Vultures were all found at the East Bend Power Plant. The Greater Scaup apparently was a female, observed during the morning at the East Bend Power Plant Ash pond by the Caminiti and Palmer-Ball. It was observed again during late afternoon by the same three observers, plus McNeely and Stephens. Field marks were noted during both observations, including wing markings during a short flight at the second sighting.

Also, while we weren't certain, it was felt that the Black Vulture flocks seen on the Warsaw and Burlington counts actually represented two separate roosts.

Observers: Brenda Bellamy, Vivian Brun, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Kevin Flowers, Darlena Graham, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Gayle Pille, Carmen Schulte and Tommy Stephens. Feeder watchers were Barb Beckerich, Marjorie Hill and Lynda McNeely.

WARSAW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County Courthouse.) Habitat river and shore 35%, open field and farmland 30%, woodland and forest edge 30% and residential 5%. Dec. 15; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast a.m., clear p.m.; temp. 49°F to 53°F; wind S, 5-20 m.p.h. Rain showers during early morning, all water open.

Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 14 (2 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 132 (1 on foot, 131 by car). Total species 51; total individual 1,653.

Highlights included a dark-phase Red-tailed Hawk, 2 Bonaparte's Gulls, and 80 Black Vultures present at the Ghent Power Plant.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Darlena Graham, David McNeely, Lee McNeely (compiler) and Tommy Stephens.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sam Campbells Branch, Perry County.) Habitat mixed upland forest, disturbed by surface mining (reclaimed) and the north fork of the Kentucky River, Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 20°F to 35°F; wind light, 0-5 m.p.h.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8.5 (7 on foot, 1.5 by car). Total party-miles 20 (10 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 35; total individuals 461.

Generally find Northern Saw-whet Owl in this area each winter, but didn't find one yet this year.

Observers: Don Spéncer (compiler) and Ben Spencer.

FIELD NOTES

RED-THROATED LOON IN LOUISVILLE

On Saturday, November 24, 1990, while birding upriver along the Ohio in Louisville, Kentucky, we observed many Common Loons on the water. We then proceeded downriver to Towhead Island where Beargrass Creek enters the Ohio River. At first we did not see any birds, but scanning the area with our binoculars we picked up a bird diving about 25-30 feet offshore. When it resurfaced we identified it as a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*). The loon was smaller than the Common Loons we had seen earlier, its head and the back of the neck were uniformly pale grey, the beak was slender and upturned, specks of white were visible on its back, and there was still a splotch of red on the neck. We observed it for an hour swimming and making quick dives in the relatively calm waters protected by the island and tied-up barges. It ate approximately five fish during this period. As we left, it was swimming out into the river downstream.

We again observed the loon on Sunday, November 25, in the same area. The bird was very cooperative coming as close as five to six feet offshore.

A Beckham Bird Club bird alert was started on Saturday, November 25, and many members saw the loon during the time it was present. The loon was last reported being seen on Thursday, November 29.

This is the ninth record for the Red-throated Loon in the state of Kentucky and the first since 1977. (*Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, Monroe, Stamm, Palmer-Ball).

— JANE BELL and PAT BELL, 306 Fairlawn Road, Louisville 40207.

A NEW BIG DAY RECORD FOR KENTUCKY

Although of little scientific value, one of the most enjoyable of birding activities is the "Big Day." The Big Day as a birding endeavor is about as old as birdwatching itself. It involves the attempt by an observer or group of observers (a "party" or "team") to identify as many species of birds as possible in a given area during a single calendar day. Although Big Day Counts are often undertaken by clubs and other groups within a given area with contributions from several parties, emphasis here is placed on the day's list compiled by a single group of observers who stay together throughout the effort.

For many years there have been attempts to compile Big Day lists in Kentucky. Dr. Gordon Wilson was probably the first to publish results of such an effort in Kentucky (*KW* 15:31-32, 1939). Dr. Wilson's list of 110 species observed on April 22, 1939 is quite impressive, especially since it was done within a fairly limited area and about two weeks before the normal peak of spring songbird migration. Kentucky's "official" one day count record of 151 species identified by a single party was accomplished on May 5, 1982. This total has been published by the informal "official" source for such data, the *American Birding Association*. On May 7, 1990, the authors compiled a party list of 162 species seen and/or heard during the 24 hour period on that date, thus breaking both the published record

of 151 species and two other counts of 156 species made by the three of us on May 5, 1988 and by Erwin and Palmer-Ball on May 4, 1989.

During our all day count on May 7, 1990, we birded entirely in the western counties of Kentucky, visiting such areas as the Land Between the Lakes, Ballard Wildlife Management Area, and Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge. As has been specified in requirements set forth by the *American Birding Association*, all observers in the party remained together for the entire day, and all identified at least 95% of the total list recorded. All birds were seen or heard within the state of Kentucky and during the 24 hour period of May 7, 1990.

Nearly all species were identified visually, but 15 were heard only. Among the total, seven species of herons and egrets, eight species of waterfowl, eleven species of shorebirds, and 31 species of warblers were recorded. It was surprising that out of the 162 species identified, none could be called extremely rare, perhaps the best finds being a Virginia Rail observed at the Ballard Wildlife Management Area and a pair of Lark Sparrows seen in eastern Calloway County.

This total is rather impressive, especially when one considers how difficult it can be to observe even a *hundred* species in a single day in many parts of the state. The combination of a good variety of waterbirds and the peak of passerine migration can result in a much higher total than may be present a couple of weeks earlier or later in the spring.

As was hoped by Dr. Wilson in 1940, it is hoped that by publishing this account, a certain amount of motivation can be elicited from readers to participate in their own Big Day counts. You can make a Big Day count in your own yard, your home county, or as most are done, over as much of the state as you wish to try to cover in a single day.

—JOE TOM ERWIN, Hamlin, BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Louisville, and DON PARKER, Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. CAN BE PROUD

Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., who is a Past-President of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and currently President of the American Ornithologists' Union, was elected as one of the new North American members of the International Ornithological Committee; the election took place at the 20th International Ornithological Congress held in Christchurch, New Zealand, 2-9 December 1990. Dr. Monroe was also commissioned to form and chair a working group of international ornithologists and birders to draw up a list of standardized English names for all bird species worldwide; the group is to present their results at the 21st International Ornithological Congress, which will be held in Vienna, Austria, 21-27 August 1994.

Dr. Monroe is also co-author with Charles G. Sibley of a new book entitled "Distribution and Taxonomy of Birds of the World," published by Yale University Press in New Haven, Connecticut. The book, released at the Congress in New Zealand, is 1,111 pages long and contains the distribution of all bird species in the world arranged in the new taxonomy proposed by Sibley, Jon Ahlquist and Monroe in 1988. Also included is a new list of bird numbers, which has been adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union for its future editions of the "Check-list of North American Birds", a set of 25 original maps and accompanying gazeteer listing more than

3000 localities used in the bird distributions, and an extensive bibliography of ornithological papers dealing with bird systematics. The book is available from Yale Press for \$125.

ASSOCIATION OF FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Interested in the study of birds? You might enjoy membership in the Association of Field Ornithologists (AFO). They offer a terrific quarterly *Journal* that includes articles on field research techniques and on the life history, ecology, behavior, migration, and zoogeography of birds. The journal includes Spanish abstracts, reviews of scientific articles published in other journals, and an annual supplement, *Resident Bird Counts*. Members also receive a bimonthly *Ornithological Newsletter* with job opportunities (paid and unpaid) and other scientific bird news, a chance to attend the annual meeting, discounts on mist nets, and more. Send \$21 (\$15 for students, \$45 for institutions) to AFO, c/o Allen Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1897, Lawrence, Kansas 66044, or ask for our brochure (same address)."

GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS

If you are interested in designing and planting a garden that serves as a haven for birds, Cornell Laboratory has the answer for you. For a self-addressed stamped envelope you can learn more about landscaping for birds, including suggestions of plants, birds they will attract, and sources for detailed plant lists and gardening ideas. Write to Cornell Laboratory for Ornithology, EIS Dept. N1, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850.

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held on April 26-28, 1991 at Carter Caves State Resort Park. Members planning to attend should make their reservations and room accommodations directly with the park as soon as possible. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005. Members are also encouraged to bring one to two slides for the photo-quiz portion of the Friday evening program.